Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin

24 October 2005

National Ocean Service

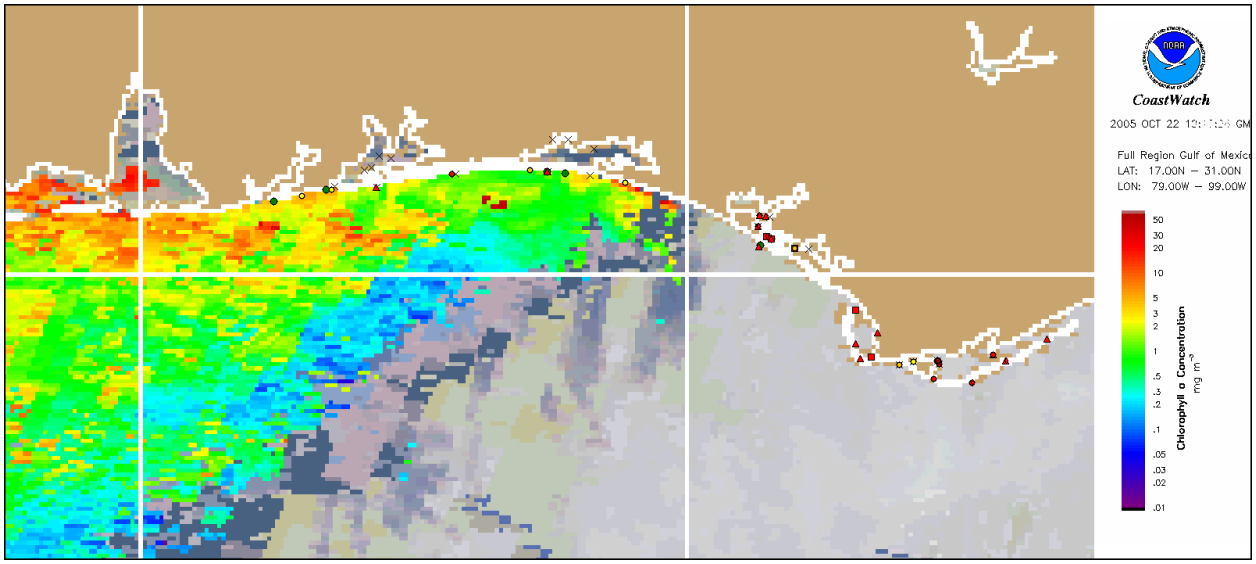
National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service

Last bulletin: October 24, 2005

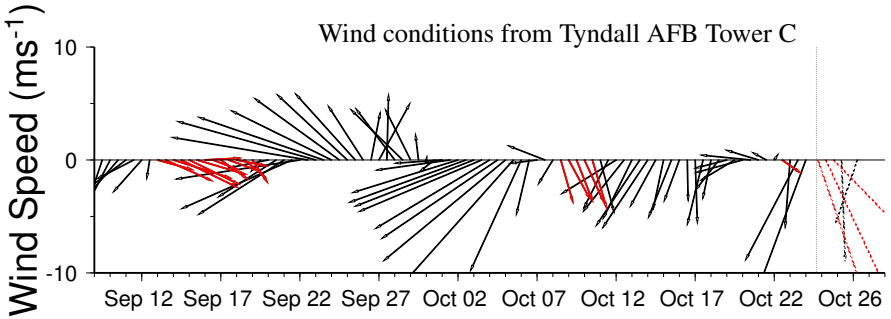
Conditions: Harmful algal blooms have been identified in Florida from Pinellas to Collier County, Dixie to Levy County, and in patches along Alabama and the Florida Panhandle. Patchy very low impacts are possible from Pinellas to Sarasota County and from Dixie to Levy County today through Thursday; with slight possibility for low impacts on Tuesday. Patchy low to moderate impacts are expected from Wakulla to Okaloosa County, FL and Baldwin to Mobile County, AL today through Thursday. Dead fish have been reported in Bay, Walton and Charlotte Counties over the last few days. Dead fish smell, while unpleasant, does not produce the same respiratory irritation as red tide.

Analysis: A harmful algal bloom remains in patches along the Florida Panhandle and Alabama coast. Medium to high *K. brevis* concentrations were identified in Gulf County, FL and Baldwin County, AL early last week. Very low to low concentrations were reported in Mobile and Baldwin Counties, AL on October 20-21 (Alabama Department of Public Health). Satellite imagery is predominantly obscured by Hurricane Rita; however high chlorophyll levels up to 17μg/L remain outside Mobile Bay. Results of a wind transport model indicate possible bloom movement 45-80km westward since October 20. Dead fish were reported in Bay and Walton Counties over the past few days. Strong northerly winds will minimize impacts at the beach through Wednesday. Westerly and offshore transport and/or expansion is possible.

~Fisher, Bronder

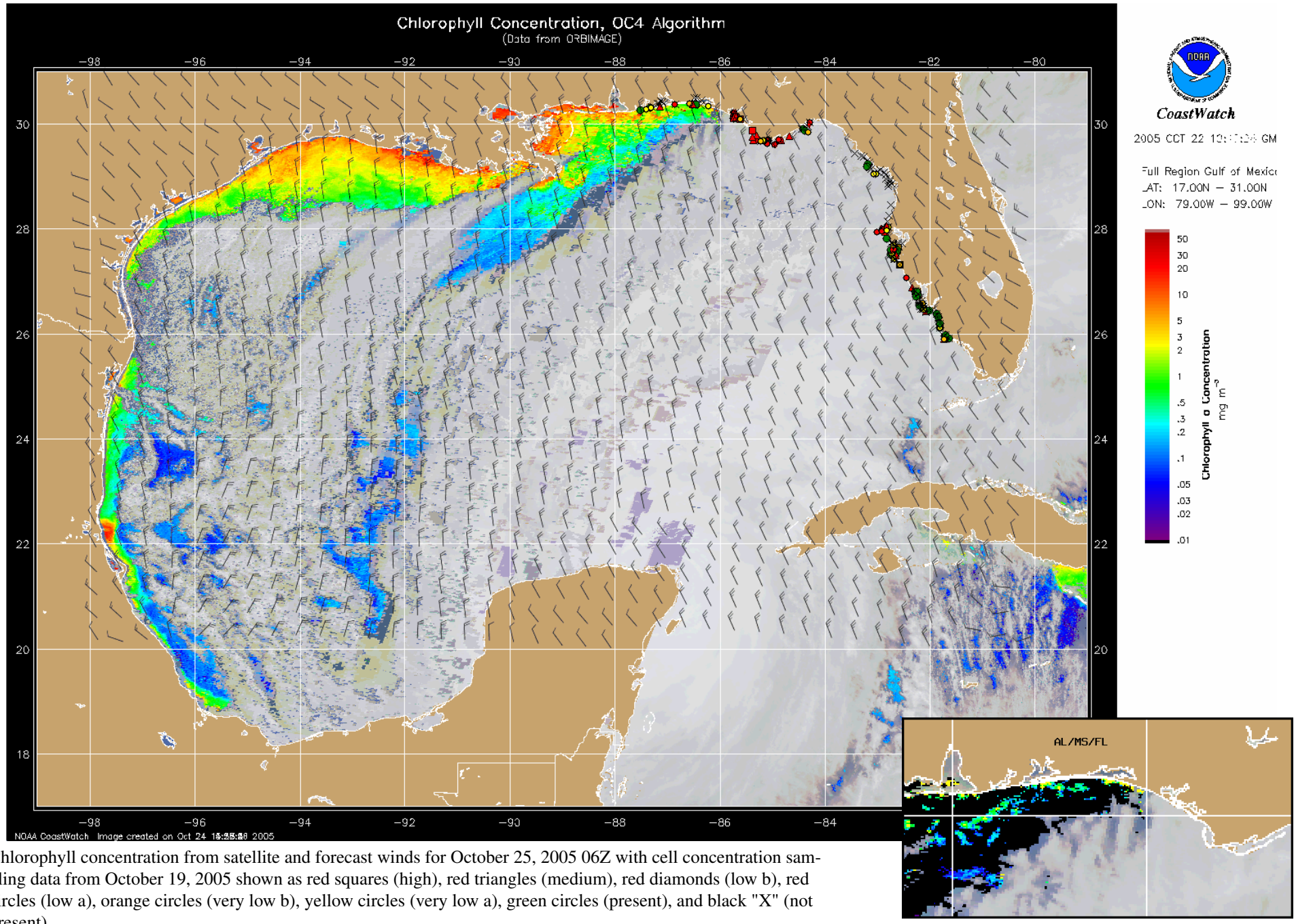


Chlorophyll concentration from satellite with HAB areas shown by red polygon(s).



Wind speed and direction are averaged over 12 hours from measurements made on buoys. Length of line indicates speed; angle indicates direction. Red indicates that the wind direction favors upwelling near the coast. Values to the left of the dotted vertical line are measured values; values to the right are forecasts.

FL Panhandle and Alabama Coast: Strong (25-30kts, 13-15m/s) northerly winds today will remain through Wednesday with continual weakening. Northeasterlies expected on Wednesday along the Alabama coast and on Thursday along the Florida Panhandle.



Chlorophyll concentration from satellite and forecast winds for October 25, 2005 06Z with cell concentration sampling data from October 19, 2005 shown as red squares (high), red triangles (medium), red diamonds (low b), red circles (low a), orange circles (very low b), yellow circles (very low a), green circles (present), and black "X" (not present).

Blooms shown in red (see p. 1 analysis)

Wind conditions from Dauphin Island, AL